



School Uniform Dress Code

Prepared by	Principal, Deputy Principals and Director of Teaching and Learning, Director of Student Learning Opportunities
Date Prepared	June 2020
Date ratified by the Board:	...
Monitored by	Principal
Review by	Principal
Date for review	October 2022
Status	Final
Policy Pertains to:	All students; staff and families to enforce
File Details:	...

Version	Date	Notes
1.6	February 2021	Various minor changes re: hair, black school jacket/jumper & sleepers & sports uniform

Authorised By	Date

Version History

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1.0	2007	New Illawarra Christian School Policy
1.1	June 2012	Inclusion of Biblical Basis
1.2	August 2012	Addition re: tattoos, studs and body piercings
1.3	August 2013	Minor changes to Decision making process from "Campus Principal" to "School Executive"
1.4	December 2016	Change of operational name to ICE, Campus to School and reformatting
1.5	June 2020	Various minor changes
1.6	February 2021	Various minor changes re: hair, black school jacket/jumper & sleepers & sports uniform

1 BIBLICAL BASIS

Matthew 6:25

25 “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?”

Romans 13:1-2

1 Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. 2 Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

1 Peter 3:3

3 Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as braided hair and the wearing of gold jewelry and fine clothes.

It is the policy of Illawarra Christian Education that parents make every effort to provide the approved school uniform and to ensure that their children wear it every day.

2 WHY HAVE UNIFORMS

The Illawarra Christian Education Association has at various times affirmed their desire that our students wear a uniform. We share this custom with most Australian schools and believe the wearing of a uniform to be consistent with the following Christian principles:

- a uniform expresses a common identity, helping students to feel part of a body, in this case the community of the school
- a uniform is a practical solution to the issue of dress for students, it allows families to use their resources wisely and minimizes distinctions between students
- a uniform frees students from unnecessary distractions
- a uniform ensures students are dressed decently and modestly
- when clearly defined, and firmly adhered to, a uniform avoids time wastage and stress for parents, teachers and board members on minor matters of dress

3 CRITERIA ON WHICH UNIFORM SELECTION IS BASED

Illawarra Christian School’s uniform should be: practical, comfortable, durable, suitable to the climate, modest, appropriate to the growth and development of the students, readily obtainable, affordable, good value for money, neat and attractive.

Other considerations: there needs to be overall uniformity with stages of progression within the school marked by some changes in uniform. Any changes in uniform should retain the overall coordination of colour and style. The increasing maturity of senior students needs to be recognised by building choices into permitted uniforms. Accessories in Years K-12 to be restricted to those with a practical function.

4 COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SCHOOL AND HOME CONCERNING UNIFORMS

1. Where a child is temporarily out of uniform (e.g. an item is lost), parents should provide a note to the Pastoral Care Coordinators to receive a blue slip. If the student does not obtain a blue slip at the beginning of the day, they will receive a detention.
2. Where a longer term exemption is required (e.g. for a medical condition), a medical certificate should be provided to the roll or class teacher.
3. Where a student is failing to comply with the uniform policy, teachers are required by the Board to:
 - a) draw the matter to the attention of the student and/or
 - b) communicate with the parents using a pro-forma letter provided for the purpose.

The action taken will seek to show regard to the particular circumstances (e.g. the age of the child concerned).

5 PROVISION FOR MAKING CHANGES TO UNIFORMS

Every effort has been made to provide a uniform which meets the needs of the school community. It is not envisaged that changes will take place frequently from here on, and in the interests of stability, this is not desirable. However, should an item no longer meet the criteria listed in this document (e.g. no longer readily available), the following steps could be taken in this order:

1. Draw the matter to the attention of the ICS School Committees.
2. If the School Committee decides to pursue the matter, it may refer it to the wider school community for input or refer it to the Uniform Committee and/or appropriate task force for research and recommendations. This should include the Uniform Shop Coordinator.
3. The Uniform committee and/or appropriate task force will send its findings, recommendations to the School Committee.
4. If the School Committee decides on a change, it will send their recommendations to the School Executive for approval.
5. If approved, the School Principal informs the School Committee, the Board, the Uniform Shop, teaching staff and wider school community.
6. The Illawarra Christian Education's Senior Executive will authorise changes to the school uniform document.

6 DRESS CODE

Each school has a standard uniform, which should be worn at all times in accordance with the following guidelines:

- All clothing should be neat, clean and in good repair.
- All clothing should be of the style and colours described in the specified uniform information.
- All clothing to be of modest fit.
- Slacks and tops are not to be tight fitting. Skirt hems are to be knee length, or in the case of Senior Secondary, an optional longer skirt length is available.
- Shirts, with the exception of sports shirts and the secondary girl's shirts, are to be worn tucked in. Shirts are to be buttoned except for the top button, other than in winter when secondary boys need to have their top button done up and their tie worn correctly.
- The additional black wet weather and warm jacket can now be worn without a jumper. It is expected though that all students have an ICS jumper for particular formal school occasions and other non school uniform items will not be permitted to be worn under the jacket.
- Footwear should be leather lace up school shoes in good repair for both male and female students. For safety reasons; the entire top of the foot needs to be covered. Thongs and joggers are not permitted.
- Students with long hair must have it tied back and off the face for safety and hygiene reasons. Hairstyles are not to restrict a student's vision (ie. not covering the eyes). If a student's hair is long enough to be tied back, then it should be. Hair half up and half down is not ok. Hair must be kept clean, neat and in a natural colour. Hair accessories, where needed, should be bottle green, black or white.
- Students should not wear fingernail polish or makeup. Year 11 and 12 students are permitted to wear discreet amounts of makeup. Junior secondary students are permitted to wear discreet levels of concealer when needed to cover skin conditions only. Extension eyelashes are not permitted.
- Small-headed studs (no larger than the earlobe) or sleepers of neutral colour (at most one per ear) can only be worn in ears. Sleepers are only allowed up to 12mm in diameter. No other pierced body parts to hold jewellery. Students may wear a watch (no smart watches allowed) and a small dress ring but no bracelets or necklaces are permitted.
- Tattoos are discouraged and must not be visible at any time (including sporting events).
- Secondary students are to change into sports uniform at school for P.E. lessons. If students have P.E. during the last period, they may go home in their sports uniform.
- Students are to wear the correct school uniform each day and are permitted to wear sports uniform to and from school on their sports day. Students are expected to change for PE.
- Students may wear all black or all white joggers (90% one colour only) for PE and Sport.

- All items of uniform must be the correct ICS uniform and no old school logo uniform items will be permitted.
- Hats are compulsory all year round for Prep to Year 12.
- Parents should make every effort to provide the approved school uniform and ensure that their children wear it every day. Should any family have practical difficulties meeting this requirement they should refer to the Principal/Deputy Principal.